CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

5   1.   A method of establishing one of a plurality of network links on a computer

system, comprising the steps of:

       a)   associating one or more alternative network link designations with one or

more of said network links;

       b)   requesting a first network link of said plurality of network links;

10   c)   initiating said first network link;

       d)   determining whether a particular alternative network link designation is

associated with said first network link; and

       e)   if said step c) fails to establish said first network link and if said particular

alternative network link designation is associated with said first network link, initiating

15   a particular network link of said plurality of network links based on said particular

alternative network link designation.

       2.   A method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

       f)   determining whether a second alternative network link designation is

20   associated with said particular network link; and

       g)   if said step e) fails to establish said particular network link and if said

second alternative network link designation is associated with said particular network

link, initiating a second network link of said plurality of network links based on said second alternative network link designation.

3.   A method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

f)   if said step e) fails to establish said particular network link, initiating said first network link.

4.   A method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

f)   if said step e) fails to establish said particular network link, initiating a second network link of said plurality of network links based on said alternative network link designation.

5.   A method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

indicating to a user whether said first network link was established; and

enabling said user to discontinue establishment of said particular network link.

6.   A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step b) includes:

sending a network open request to a shared library of said computer system.

7.   A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said computer system comprises a personal digital assistant.

8.   A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions stored therein for performing a method of establishing one of a plurality of network links on a computer system, comprising the steps of:

a)   associating one or more alternative network link designations with one or more of said network links;

b)   requesting a first network link of said plurality of network links;

c)   initiating said first network link;

d)   determining whether a particular alternative network link designation is associated with said first network link; and

e)   if said step c) fails to establish said first network link and if said particular alternative network link designation is associated with said first network link, initiating a particular network link of said plurality of network links based on said particular alternative network link designation.

9.   A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

f)   determining whether a second alternative network link designation is associated with said particular network link; and

g)   if said step e) fails to establish said particular network link and if said second alternative network link designation is associated with said particular network link, initiating a second network link of said plurality of network links based on said second alternative network link designation.

10.   A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8 wherein said method further comprises the step of:

f)   if said step e) fails to establish said particular network link, initiating said first network link.

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11.   A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8 wherein said method further comprises the step of:

f)   if said step e) fails to establish said particular network link, initiating a second network link of said plurality of network links based on said alternative network link designation.

12.   A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

indicating to a user whether said first network link was established; and

enabling said user to discontinue establishment of said particular network link.

13.   A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8 wherein said step b) includes:

sending a network open request to a shared library of said computer system.

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14.   A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8 wherein said computer system comprises a personal digital assistant.

15.   A computer system comprising:

a data bus;

a processor couples to said data bus; and

a memory device coupled to said data bus and having computer-executable

instructions stored therein for performing a method of establishing one of a plurality of

network links on said computer system, comprising the steps of:

a)   associating one or more alternative network link designations with one or

more of said network links;

b)   requesting a first network link of said plurality of network links;

c)   initiating said first network link;

d)   determining whether a particular alternative network link designation is

associated with said first network link; and

e)   if said step c) fails to establish said first network link and if said particular

alternative network link designation is associated with said first network link, initiating

a particular network link of said plurality of network links based on said particular

alternative network link designation.

16.   A computer system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said method further

comprises the steps of:

f)   determining whether a second alternative network link designation is

associated with said particular network link; and

g)   if said step e) fails to establish said particular network link and if said

second alternative network link designation is associated with said particular network

link, initiating a second network link of said plurality of network links based on said second alternative network link designation.

17.   A computer system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said method further comprises the step of:

f)   if said step e) fails to establish said particular network link, initiating said first network link.

18.   A computer system as recited in Claim 15 further comprising the step of:

f)   if said step e) fails to establish said particular network link, initiating a second network link of said plurality of network links based on said alternative network link designation.

19.   A computer system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

indicating to a user whether said first network link was established; and

enabling said user to discontinue establishment of said particular network link.

20.   A computer system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said step b) includes:

sending a network open request to a shared library of said computer system.

21.   A computer system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said computer system comprises a personal digital assistant.

22.   A computer system comprising;

a data bus;

a memory device coupled to said data bus; and

a processor coupled to said data bus, wherein a first network link of a plurality of network links is initiated in response to a request for said first network link, and wherein if said first network link is not established and if a user has previously designated an alternative network link for said first network link, said alternative network link is initiated.

23.   A computer system as recited in Claim 22 wherein if said alternative network link is not established, a second alternative network link previously designated by said user is initiated.

24.   A computer system as recited in Claim 22 wherein if said alternative network link is not established, said first network link is initiated.

25.   A computer system as recited in Claim 22 wherein whether said first network link was established is indicated to said user, and wherein said user is enabled to discontinue establishment of said alternative network link.

26.   A computer system as recited in Claim 22 wherein said request is sent to a shared library of said computer system.

27. A computer system as recited in Claim 22 wherein said computer system comprises a personal digital assistant.